FLASHBACK

UNTOLD TALES of SPIDER-MAN®

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

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MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

ROMITA

RICHARD AND MARY PARKER™: AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D.®

THERE'S A MAN WHO LEADS A LIFE OF DANGER!

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T CATCH THE NAME, IT'S *LEE-- STAN LEE!*

WAIT! BEFORE YOU STORM MARVEL'S OFFICE AND DEMAND YOUR MONEY BACK...

OUR STORY *ISN'T* ABOUT ME -- HONEST! Hey, THIS ISN'T EVEN A REAL GUN!

NO, THE ***REAL*** DANGER MAN WILL AFFECT THE LIFE OF OUR WONDROUS WALL-CRAWLER -- EVEN BEFORE HE WAS BORN!

THRU THE MAGIC OF YOUR IMAGINATION, COME BACK WITH ME TO A FATEFUL EVENING, OVER 25 YEARS AGO...

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A ***STAN LEE*** PRESENTATION

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THE SCHEHERAZADE HAD BEEN ANCHORED OFF THE COAST OF THE RIVIERA FOR NEARLY A WEEK. ONE OF THE MOST LAVISH LUXURY YACHTS IN THE WORLD, SHE RIVALED EVEN THE ROYAL YACHT BRITANNIA IN SIZE AND BEAUTY.

AND NO ONE SEEMED TO KNOW WHO OWNED HER.

OH THERE WERE RUMORS. ONE HELD THAT SHE WAS OWNED BY AN OIL-RICH SHEIK.

BUT I KNEW THOSE RUMORS WERE FALSE.

I SAW A MORE SINISTER PRESENCE BEHIND HER GLEAMING HULL...

...SO I SET OUT TO PROVE IT.

THIS COMMUNIQUÉ --

-- IT WAS DECODED, HENRI?

OUI, BARONNE...

BINGO! JUST THE WOMAN I WAS LOOKING FOR...

...THE BARONESS ADELICIA VON KRUPP... WIDOWED HEIR TO AN OLD FAMILY FORTUNE...

..AND UP TO HER PRETTY FACE IN SOME VERY DIRTY BUSINESS.

...OUR NETWORK CONFIRMS THE CAPTURE OF THE CIA'S *AGENT TEN* IN *MAHASASHTRA!* HE HAS SO FAR PROVEN... *UNCOOPERATIVE.*

HAVE HIM TRANSPORTED TO THE CAPITAL. THE *SUPREME ONE* WILL WANT TO INTERROGATE HIM PERSONALLY!

STEP AWAY FROM WINDOW. SLOWLY.

AND KEEP HANDS WHERE I CAN SEE.

OF COURSE, OLD BOY --

HOW'S *THIS?!*

FSSH

βορμαλ ταλκ.

SO MUCH FOR STEALTH.

SI FERMI!

SUBITO!

THE BARONESS CERTAINLY HAS AN INTERNATIONAL CREW!

MY ITALIAN'S A LITTLE RUSTY, BUT I GET THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THEY'D LIKE ME TO SURRENDER.

LET'S SEE IF I CAN CHANGE THEIR MINDS.

PTOW TOW TOW TOW

NO GOOD! MY LITTLE PLAYMATE'S GUN DIDN'T HAVE A FULL CLIP.

BDAM

GYAHH!

SEARCHLIGHTS?

THE OLD PARKER LUCK'S RUNNING TRUE TO FORM...

RAGAZZI, SISTEMATELO!

FUP FUP FUP FUP FUP

IT HAS BEEN OVER *15 MINUTES*... WE *MUST* HAVE GOTTEN HIM!

PRAY THAT YOU HAVE, HENRI. NEITHER THE SUPREME ONE NOR MYSELF ACCEPT FAILURE --

-- AND *NOTHING* MUST INTERFERE WITH MY MISSION!

PREPARE FOR MY DEPARTURE.

AT ONCE, BARONESS.

AT LEAST MY LUCK ISN'T ALL BAD.

THESE REBREATHER TANKS LEAVE NO TELLTALE BUBBLES. ASSUMING MY BLOOD DOESN'T ATTRACT ANY SHARKS...

WE SHOULD BE HOME FREE!

RICHARD! RICHARD, ARE YOU --?

FINE. I'LL BE... FINE, MARY.

THEY JUST...CLIPPED ME. HURTS LIKE THE DEVIL, THOUGH.

GLAD... I HAD YOU AS BACKUP.

GLAD I INSISTED ON IT, YOU MEAN!

LISTEN --!

WUP WUP WUP

HELICOPTER! THIS BARONESS DOESN'T LIGHT IN ANY ONE PLACE FOR LONG, DOES SHE?

NO. WE HAVE TO RING IN THE EMBASSY BEFORE --!

the AMAZING PARKERS

An UNTOLD TALE of SPIDER-MAN'S PARENTS!

BUHROOOM

WUPWUPWUP

TOO LATE.

SHE BLEW UP THE YACHT... JUST TO COVER HER TRACKS?!

Uh-Huh. LOOKS LIKE THE BARONESS PLAYS FOR KEEPS.

HOW... MANY PEOPLE WERE ON BOARD?

MORE THAN WOULD FIT IN THAT CHOPPER.

I'M AFRAID...

"...OUR VACATION'S REALLY OVER."

NO, I DON'T DOUBT YOU FOR A MOMENT, *PARKER* --

-- AS YOU KNOW, WE'VE LONG SUSPECTED THE BARONESS OF ***NEO-NAZI SYMPATHIES***... A FAVORITE UNCLE OF HERS WAS IN THE S.S. BUT ***THIS*** GOES BEYOND THE PALE!

HOW DID YOU COME TO FIND HER HERE? OUR LATEST REPORTS PLACED HER IN BUENOS AIRES.

TIME TO UPDATE THOSE REPORTS, AMBASSADOR. WE FOUND HER PURELY BY CHANCE...

"...***MARY*** SPOTTED THE BARONESS AS WE WERE LEAVING THE IMPERIAL CASINO. AND I RECOGNIZED THE MAN AT HER SIDE -- ***GUENTER SCHMIDT*** --

"-- A WEAPONS PROCURER WITH TIES TO EVERY ***TERRORIST CELL*** IN THE EAST.

"I TAILED HER TO THE *SCHEHERAZADE* IN HOPES OF GETTING SOMETHING ON SCHMIDT..."

...BUT I THINK I UNCOVERED SOMETHING ***BIGGER***. AMBASSADOR, WHO IS THIS *"AGENT TEN"*?

HE'S AN OPERATIVE OF A FRIENDLY POWER, NOW WORKING WITH THE AGENCY. HE DISAPPEARED FOUR DAYS AGO IN INDIA.

IF THESE TERRORISTS BREAK HIM --!

WE HAVE TO FIND HIM BEFORE THEY CAN. I CAN BE IN BOMBAY IN A MATTER OF HOURS!

YOU MEAN, ***WE*** CAN BE THERE!

MARY --!

WHAT COULD BE BETTER COVER THAN A COUPLE ON HOLIDAY?

AMBASSADOR --?

MY WIFE CAN BE VERY PERSUASIVE...

...WITHIN MINUTES, WE WERE BOTH BEING OUTFITTED FOR THE MISSION...

ISN'T THIS SOMETHING LIKE THE WRISTBAND RICHARD USED?

INDEED, MA'AM... ALBEIT WITH SOME MODIFICATIONS.

AND FOR YOU, SIR, A NEW CAMERA/ ULTRA-SPEED SHUTTER -- AND, OF COURSE, THE USUAL EXTRAS.

THANKS, BOOTHROYD.

...AND ON OUR WAY TO BOMBAY.

I STILL WASN'T HAPPY THAT MARY'D GOTTEN HERSELF INVOLVED.

I EXPECT TO PUT MY OWN TAIL ON THE LINE...

...I'VE BEEN DOING THAT EVER SINCE MY HITCH WITH THE SPECIAL FORCES. AND THE PACE PICKED UP CONSIDERABLY WHEN COLONEL FURY TAPPED ME FOR THE AGENCY.

YOU'RE PRETTY HOT STUFF, SOLDIER. HOW'D YOU LIKE TO REALLY SERVE YOUR COUNTRY?

I'M GLAD I ACCEPTED FURY'S OFFER. I'VE SEEN MORE ACTION AS A COVERT OPERATIVE THAN I DID IN THE ARMY!

AND IF I HADN'T JOINED THE AGENCY, I NEVER WOULD HAVE MET MARY FITZPATRICK -- THE PRETTIEST TRANSLATOR EVER TO GRACE THE HALLS OF LANGLEY.

TROUBLE IS, MARY WAS NEVER SATISFIED WITH A DESK JOB...

SHE ALWAYS WANTED TO GO INTO THE FIELD. I NEVER SHOULD HAVE GIVEN HER THAT FIRST OPPORTUNITY. IF ANYTHING EVER HAPPENED TO HER...

Oh, RICHARD... A MILLION MILES AWAY AGAIN...

AND ALWAYS KEEPING A MILLION SECRETS BOTTLED UP INSIDE! I WISH YOU COULD SHARE MORE OF THEM WITH ME.

BUT THAT'S THE LOT OF AN AGENT, ISN'T IT?

DADDY WAS THE SAME WAY...

...WILD WILL FITZPATRICK -- THAT'S WHAT THEY'D CALL HIM IN THE O.S.S. AND FROM ALL THE STORIES, I GUESS HE WAS A BIT OF A BOUNDER...

...BUT I NEVER SAW THAT SIDE OF HIM.

MOTHER DIED SO YOUNG, AND HE WAS THE ONLY PARENT I REALLY KNEW.

IF HE'D BEEN WEALTHIER, HE WOULD HAVE SPOILED ME TERRIBLY.

AS IT WAS, HE SAW TO IT THAT I WENT TO THE FINEST SCHOOLS.

WHEN THE NEWS CAME THAT HE HAD DIED, I THOUGHT MY OWN LIFE WOULD END.

IN A WAY, I SUPPOSE, IT DID.

DADDY HADN'T LEFT MUCH IN THE WAY OF MONEY. BUT BETWEEN MY SCHOOLING AND THE CONNECTIONS I HAD WITH HIS OLD CRONIES, I WAS ABLE TO START A NEW LIFE AS A TRANSLATOR AND DATA ANALYST FOR THE AGENCY...

...A NEW, EXCITING LIFE -- AFTER I MET RICHARD.

IF NOT FOR HIM, I DOUBT THAT I EVER WOULD HAVE GOTTEN ANY REAL FIELD WORK.

IT WAS DANGEROUS. DEADLY WORK. BUT I LOVED IT...

...ALMOST AS MUCH AS I LOVED RICHARD. OUR WEDDING STILL SEEMS LIKE SUCH A DREAM. I WISH DADDY COULD HAVE BEEN THERE.

I HADN'T HAD A FAMILY FOR SO LONG... IT WAS WONDERFUL GAINING ONE WITH RICHARD'S OLDER BROTHER BEN AND HIS WIFE MAY. SUCH FINE, DOWN-TO-EARTH PEOPLE...

...THOUGH MAY WOULD PROBABLY HAVE A CORONARY IF SHE KNEW WHAT RICHARD AND I REALLY DO FOR A LIVING!

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE. WE ARE NOW -- -- IN OUR FINAL APPROACH FOR BOMBAY. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR SEAT BACKS AND TRAY TABLES ARE IN THEIR UPRIGHT AND LOCKED POSITIONS.

BOMBAY... CAPITAL OF INDIA'S MAHARASHTRA STATE. A CITY OF OVER FOUR MILLION PEOPLE...

WE SPEND TWO DAYS CRISSCROSSING THE CITY... SEARCHING FROM CHOWPATTY BEACH TO VIKHROLI AND BACK AGAIN...

...UNTIL WE FINALLY GET LUCKY.

RICHARD!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! THE BARONESS... BOLD AS BRASS! IN THIS CROWD SHE STANDS OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB. IT *CAN'T* BE THIS EASY --!

IT ISN'T. THE BARONESS KNOWS WHERE SHE'S GOING, AND WE DON'T.

IN A MATTER OF MOMENTS, SHE ALL BUT VANISHED INTO A PARADE! JUST OUR LUCK, IT HAD TO BE GANESH'S BIRTHDAY!

CAN YOU SEE HER?

YES, HALF A BLOCK DOWN...

"...GOING INTO AN ALLEYWAY."

STAY ALERT. I MAY HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED!

ALLOW NO ONE ENTRY.

AS YOU WISH.

I KNOW SHE WENT IN THERE... BUT THOSE HUMAN ROADBLOCKS ARE IN THE WAY.

TIME TO PLAY "UGLY AMERICAN."

YOO-HOO! COULD Y'ALL HE'P US?

?

YOU FELLERS SPEAK ENGLISH? HOWZABOUT SNAPPIN' A PICTURE OF THE WIFEY AN' ME WIF THE PARADE BEHIND US?!

DO IT AND GET RID OF THEM!

VERY WELL.

IT'S REAL SIMPLE...

"...YOU JUST POINT AND CLICK."

FOOOSH!

THAT SHOULD HOLD THEM FOR A FEW HOURS. PASSERSBY WILL THINK THEY'VE BEEN CELEBRATING TOO HARD.

ANY LUCK?

SIMPLE LOCK. PIECE OF CAKE!

MARY KNOWS THE DRILL AS WELL AS I... SHE'S A REAL TROOPER. STILL, I WISH SHE WEREN'T ALONG FOR THIS RIDE.

FUNNY, HOW BEING MARRIED CHANGES YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON DANGER.

AND WHERE THE BARONESS IS CONCERNED...

WOK!

I REMEMBER THINKING THAT I MUST BE DEAD. I EVEN HEAR AN ANGEL CALLING OUT TO ME!

RICHARD?

UNGHH?

...YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO COME FALLING OUT OF THE SKY!

THEN, I REALIZE IT'S MARY...

DO STAND UP, "RICHARD", IF THAT IS INDEED YOUR NAME.

I ASSUME YOU WERE THE ONE WHO TRESPASSED UPON MY YACHT. THE WOUND ON YOUR RIGHT ARM WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT.

SHE KNOWS --? YES, OF COURSE SHE DOES. OUR CLOTHES HAVE BEEN CHANGED... THEY MUST HAVE SEARCHED US.

I SHOULD KILL YOU BOTH RIGHT NOW!

NO NEED FOR SUCH HASTE, BARONESS...

WHRRRR

...IF THEY HAVE COME ALL THIS WAY, IT IS ONLY FAIR THAT THEY FIND THE ONE THEY SOUGHT!

GOOD LORD.

HAVE YOU MET YOUR *"AGENT-TEN"*?

HE HAS A REMARKABLY STRONG CONSTITUTION. IN NEARLY A *WEEK* OF TORTURE, ALL THAT I HAVE LEARNED IS THAT HE CALLS HIMSELF *LOGAN*. A MOST DIFFICULT MAN TO BREAK...

...BUT PERHAPS *YOU* WILL PROVE EASIER, Eh?

BRING THE AMERICAN FORWARD!

YES, SUPREME ONE!

NO!

I'LL TELL YOU WHATEVER YOU WISH TO KNOW... JUST DON'T HURT HIM!

DON'T LISTEN TO HER! SHE KNOWS NOTHING!

I SHALL BE THE JUDGE OF THAT. LET THE WOMAN APPROACH.

A PRETTY LITTLE THING, AREN'T YOU? SUPPOSE YOU SHOW ME HOW TO ACTIVATE THIS LITTLE WRIST-TOY WE TOOK FROM YOU!

WOULD YOU DO THAT TO SAVE YOUR MAN?

I WOULD DO ANYTHING...

...ALMOST!

THOK

GOOD GIRL, MARY!

LOGAN! STAY DOWN!

WHUD

KLIK

ACH --!

#@$%&*!

SUCH LANGUAGE!

SO MUCH FOR THE MANNERED ARISTOCRACY!

BLAM

CHOOM

FTTT

LOOK OUT --!

IN SECONDS, THE PLACE WAS ENGULFED IN SMOKE AND FIRE.

I DON'T THINK WE'D HAVE EVER FOUND OUR WAY OUT, IF NOT FOR LOGAN.

I'D NEVER SEEN A MAN REVIVE SO FAST IN ALL MY LIFE!

BOUND AND TORTURED FOR DAYS, AND I SWEAR HE WAS IN BETTER SHAPE THAN I WAS!

C'MON, LET'S MOVE!

HANG IN THERE, MARY! WE'RE ALL RIGHT NOW!

MARY?! MARY!

NO SIGN OF THE BARONESS OR HER "SUPREME ONE". THEY'RE TOAST...

"...'LESS THERE WAS ANOTHER WAY OUTTA THERE!"

I... I HAVE *FAILED* YOU, SUPREME ONE.

NO, ADELICIA, THIS IS BUT A SETBACK!

AS LONG AS WE YET LIVE, IT IS OUR ENEMIES WHO HAVE FAILED!

BUT ONE DAY, THEY WILL ALL FEEL MY WRATH! AND ON THAT DAY, BARON WOLFGANG VON STRUCKER WILL CONQUER ALL!

"WELL, PARKER --

-- THAT'S ONE I OWE YA!

FORGET IT, LOGAN. LOOKS TO ME LIKE ALL YOU EVER REALLY NEEDED WAS A DIVERSION.

WELL, I HOPE YER MISSUS IS OKAY.

CAPTAIN PARKER? YOU NEEDN'T WORRY. YOUR WIFE'S REACTION WAS NOT UNCOMMON FOR A WOMAN IN HER CONDITION.

CONDITION --?!

I'D SAY SHE'S ABOUT A MONTH *PREGNANT!*

CONGRATULATIONS, BUB!

MARY! YOU -! WE --!

I KNOW, THE DOCTOR TOLD ME.

GUESS THIS MEANS NO BARROOM BRAWLS FOR A WHILE, Eh?

WONDER WHAT IT'LL BE... A BOY OR A GIRL?

I'VE BEEN QUITE LUCKY WITH MEN, SO I'D SAY A *BOY!*

WELL, WITH US AS PARENTS, I BET HE'LL BE PRETTY DARNED *AMAZING!*

END.

Stan Lee PRESENTS

Petey the ADVENTURES of PETER PARKER LONG BEFORE HE BECAME SPIDER-MAN!

in "Hydra and Go-Seek!"

PETEY! PETEY PARKER?

HUH? Mrs. Watson?

Would you come HERE a moment, dear?

I wonder if you might pick up a PACKAGE for me? I'd go myself, but, well, I have a ROAST in the OVEN, and...

SURE. I'd be GLAD to help.

And for doing me this FAVOR, I'll give you a DOLLAR when you bring it to me...

Aw, that's NOT necessary...

?!?!

I INSIST. WHOEVER does this ERRAND DESERVES it!

FLASH THOMPSON?!!

WHAT are you DOING??

Shhhhh, LIZ!! Didn't you HEAR? Puny Parker's gonna earn himself a DOLLAR!

SO? So just imagine what he'll DO with it. He'll probably WASTE it on a SCIENCE BOOK or something just as DUMB.

Now, if on the OTHER hand, WE were to get AHOLD of that dollar?...

mmmm-- ICE CREAM SODAS!

EXACTLY!

--and I'll call the man at the TOY STORE and tell him to EXPECT you.

Okay, Mrs. Watson.

But Flash --HOW??

Don't worry, Liz---

1.

by FRED HEMBECK 1997

--I HAVE A PLAN!

HAIL HYDRA! Cut off ONE limb and TWO more shall take its place! We serve the SUPREME HYDRA as the world's--

QUIET, YOU FOOL!!

There IS no Hydra--not YET. And I am merely BARON WOLFGANG VON STRUCKER-- NOT the SUPREME HYDRA--is that UNDERSTOOD?

y..yes Sir.

THAT could all soon CHANGE, however. The organization I founded during the final days of WORLD WAR II, the organization I've been NURSING back from the ASHES of DEFEAT ever since--

Good.

--the organization I thought was at LEAST a DECADE away from RE-EMERGENCE could be READY as SOON as ..choke.. THIS AFTERNOON--

--providing me not only a chance for WORLD DOMINATION--

--but an OPPORTUNITY to wear these really SLICK uniforms as well!

It'll ALL happen--as long as YOU do YOUR job!

M--ME, Suprem--er, BARON?

There is a WEAPON, a most DEVASTATING weapon. The PROTOTYPE and ONLY existing set of PLANS have been SMUGGLED into this country by my AGENTS--and I want YOU to pick them up for me.

Inasmuch as the INVENTOR has met with an, ah, UNTIMELY DEMISE, it is IMPERATIVE you secure this device for me. For with it, HYDRA WILL LIVE AGAIN!!

Yes Sir!

--but WHY have you chosen ME for this great honor? Is it my INTELLIGENCE? My COURAGE? My TENACITY?

--My IMPECCABLE SENSE of STYLE??..

NONE of the above, my boy. No, I chose YOU because, to any verdammt CIA agents snooping about, YOU'LL look most like a CHILD--

--for WHAT is MORE natural than a child picking up a package at a TOY STORE?

Here--put THESE on.

Geez, the things you gotta do for WORLD DOMINATION!?

Oooo.. NICE threads.

..where IS he?..

FINALLY!! HERE--take this and see that it gets to its intended destination!

huh?

IMMEDIATELY!

Uh, YES sir!

HAIL HYDRA!

Gesundheit.

?

HEY! THIS is the package you're supposed to pick up for Anna May W--

PETEY PARKER!

..I think THAT seemed fairly NONCHALANT...

--WHAT?

No need to WAVE IT AROUND, comrade. Give it to ME and ALL will be taken care of.

HAIL HYDRA!

..er, I mean:

HAIL HYDRA!

C'MON--he can't be very far AHEAD of us!

CHOCOLATE for ME!

Mmmm! I can TASTE that VANILLA already!

..sigh..

Lucky for me it was PRE-PAID..

Parker, old buddy-- WHATCHA GOT THERE?

huh? Flash-- Liz?

Hi, Petey.

NONE of YOUR business, Thomp--

EEEEEEK!

LIZ! WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S THE MATTER??

..NICE job...

I--I THOUGHT I saw a SPIDER.

Geez, is THAT all? I KEEP telling you, spiders are our frien--

HEY!

Now it's up to ME!

Once I deliver this to Mrs. Watson, she'll have to give ME that dollar!

COME BACK HERE WITH THAT!

NOT likely, SUCKER!

heh.

FLASH!! LOOK OUT FOR THAT--

o.. mi.. GOSH..

--HYDRANT---

OOOOFF!

CRUNCH

Sigh.

Well, there goes a BUCK...

MORE than THAT, smart guy.

Huh?

Do you have ANY idea WHAT was IN that package?

Uh, no.

YOUR birthday present.

WHAT?!

Seems your MOM can't trust you NOT to SNOOP, so she was going to HIDE it at Mrs. Watsons' house.

WAS.

Oh man ... Could you at least TELL me WHAT they got me?

Sure, Flash old buddy. It was--

--A WATER PISTOL?!?

You bring me a WATER PISTOL??

I--I don't understand, Baron--there must be SOME mistake!??

And actually, it's more a water RIFLE than a PISTOL.

G?#! Once again, NO soda--

Boy, if ANYBODY'S having a WORSE day than I am--

--I'd sure HATE to meet him...

The ONLY mistake here is YOU! But you SHOULD prove USEFUL for ONE purpose--

..Baron?

We'll see once and for all WHAT does happen when you cut off ONE limb. WILL two REALLY replace it, hmm?

Take him away.

NO!

..hmm..

y..you can call me "LEFTY", fellas.

Not for MUCH longer.

SLOOSH

Oh well, BACK to the drawing board...

KAPUT!